AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-32 without prejudice.

33. (original) A tool for fastening framing members together comprising:

a crimping member having opposite first and second surfaces and operable to engage a flap in framing members, rotate about a pivot to deform said flap with said first surface and form a crimp joint that fastens said framing members together; and

a piercing member capable of movement relative to said crimping member and having a first portion configured to pierce said framing members and a second portion configured to rotate said crimping member, said piercing member being operable to move relative to said crimping member, pierce said framing members with said first portion to form said flap, rotate said crimping member with said second portion to form said crimp joint, and withdraw from said framing members.

34. (original) The tool of claim 33, wherein said first portion has a generally U-shaped cross section and forms a generally U-shaped flap in said framing members.

35. (original) The tool of claim 33, wherein said second portion of said piercing member is curved to facilitate rotation of said crimping member about said pivot in response to movement of said second portion.

36. (original) The tool of claim 33, wherein said second surface of said crimping member is curved to facilitate rotation of said crimping member about said pivot in response to movement of said second portion of said piercing member.

37. (original) The tool of claim 33, wherein said first surface of said crimping member is curved to facilitate deforming said flap.

38. (original) The tool of claim 33, wherein said crimping member is spring loaded to disengage from said flap as said piercing member is removed from said framing members.

39. (original) A tool for fastening framing members together comprising:

at least two crimping members each having a tip configured to pierce framing members in response to movement of said crimping members and each being operable to pierce said framing members, rotate about separate pivots to deform a portion of said framing members and form a crimp joint that fastens said framing members together; and

a ram capable of movement relative to said crimping members and having an engaging portion configured to rotate said crimping members, said ram member being operable to move relative to said crimping members and rotate said crimping members with said engaging portion to form said crimp joint.

40. (original) The tool of claim 39, wherein said engaging portion of said

ram flares outwardly.

41. (original) The tool of claim 40, wherein said crimping members each have a recesses complementary to flaring of said engaging portion.

42. (original) The tool of claim 39, wherein each crimping member has a curved surface that engages with and deforms said portion of said framing members.

43. (original) The tool of claim 39, further comprising a stop that engages with said framing members and limits movement of said crimping members toward said framing members.

44. (original) The tool of claim 39, wherein movement of said ram relative to said crimping members away from said framing members causes said crimping members to rotate toward said framing members and movement of said ram relative to said crimping members toward said framing members causes said crimping members to rotate away from said framing members.

45. (original) The tool of claim 39, wherein said crimping members pierce through said framing members at a common location and rotate away from one another when forming said crimp joint.